Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 4.104

DISEASES OF THE HEART—Continued

medication) or 30% (based on the presence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation) evaluation is met, METs testing is required in all cases except:

- (1) When there is a medical contraindication.
- (2) When the left ventricular ejection fraction has been measured and is 50% or less.
- (3) When chronic congestive heart failure is present or there has been more than one episode of congestive heart failure within the past year.
- (4) When a 100% evaluation can be assigned on another basis.
- (c) If left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) testing is not of record, evaluate based on the alternative criteria unless the examiner states that the LVEF test is needed in a particular case because the available medical information does not sufficiently reflect the severity of the veteran's cardiovascular disability.

[71 FR 52460, Sept. 6, 2006]

§§ 4.101-4.103 [Reserved]

§4.104 Schedule of ratings—cardiovascular system.

DISEASES OF THE HEART

	R ir
NOTE (1): Evaluate cor pulmonale, which is a form of secondary heart disease, as part of the pulmonary condition that causes it. NOTE (2): One MET (metabolic equivalent) is the energy cost of standing quietly at rest and represents an oxygen uptake of 3.5 milliliters per kilogram of body weight per minute. When the level of METs at which dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope develops is required for evaluation, and a laboratory determination of METs by exercise testing cannot be done for medical reasons, an estimation by a medical examiner of the level of activity (expressed in METs and supported by specific examples, such as slow stair climbing or shoveling snow) that results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope may be used. 7000 Valvular heart disease (including rheumatic heart disease): During active infection with valvular heart damage and for three months following cessation of therapy for the active infection	

	Rat- ing
More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of 30 to 50 percent	60
Workload of greater than 5 METs but not greater than 7 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation on electro-cardiogram, echocardio-	60
gram, or X-ray	30
continuous medication required	10
therapy for active infection with cardiac in- volvement	100
fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or, left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100
tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac- tion of 30 to 50 percent	60
tion on electrocardiogram, echocardio- gram, or X-ray	30
continuous medication required	10
therapy for active infection with cardiac in- volvement	100
Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work- load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100
tricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of 30 to 50 percent	60

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		DISEASES	OF THE	HEART-	-Continued
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	Rat- ing		Rat- ing
Workload of greater than 5 METs but not greater than 7 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation on electro-cardiogram, echocardio-		More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ven-	
gram, or X-ray	30	tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac- tion of 30 to 50 percent Workload of greater than 5 METs but not greater than 7 METs results in dyspnea,	60
fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; continuous medication required	10	fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or, evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation on electrocardiogram, echocardio-	
Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work- load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100	gram, or X-ray Workload of greater than 7 METs but not greater than 10 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or;	30
More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection frac-		continuous medication required	10
tion of 30 to 50 percent	60	7006 Myocardial infarction: During and for three months following myocardial infarction, documented by laboratory tests	100
evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilata- tion on electro-cardiogram, echocardio- gram, or X-ray	30	Thereafter: With history of documented myocardial infarction, resulting in: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work-	
greater than 10 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; continuous medication required	10	load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection	100
7004 Syphilitic heart disease: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work-load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100	fraction of less than 30 percent	100
More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ven- tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac-		tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac- tion of 30 to 50 percent	60
tion of 30 to 50 percent	60	tion on electrocardiogram, echocardiogram, or X-ray	30
evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilata- tion on electrocardiogram, echocardio- gram, or X-ray	30	continuous medication required	10
continuous medication required	10	left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100
7005 Arteriosclerotic heart disease (Coronary artery disease):		of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ven-	
With documented coronary artery disease resulting in: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; workload of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection		tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac- tion of 30 to 50 percent	60
fraction of less than 30 percent	100	evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilata- tion on electrocardiogram, echocardio- gram, or X-ray	30

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DISEASES OF THE HEART—Continued
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	Rat- ing		Rat- ing
Workload of greater than 7 METs but not greater than 10 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; continuous medication required	10	More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue,	
7008 Hyperthyroid heart disease: Include as part of the overall evaluation for hyperthyroidism under DC 7900. However, when atrial fibrillation is present, hy-	10	angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of 30 to 50 percent	60
perthyroidism may be evaluated either under DC 7900 or under DC 7010 (supra- ventricular arrhythmia), whichever results in a higher evaluation.		greater than 7 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or, evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilata- tion on electrocardiogram, echocardio-	
7010 Supraventricular arrhythmias: Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation or other supraventricular tachycardia, with more than four episodes per year documented by		gram, or X-ray Workload of greater than 7 METs but not greater than 10 METs results in dyspnea, fatique, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or;	30
ECG or Holter monitor	30	continuous medication or a pacemaker required	10
lation), or; one to four episodes per year of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation or other su- praventricular tachycardia documented by ECG or Holter monitor	10	NOTE: Unusual cases of arrhythmia such as atrio- ventricular block associated with a supraventricular arrhythmia or pathological bradycardia should be submitted to the Director, Compensation and Pen-	
7011 Ventricular arrhythmias (sustained): For indefinite period from date of hospital admission for initial evaluation and med- ical therapy for a sustained ventricular ar-		sion Service. Simple delayed P-R conduction time, in the absence of other evidence of cardiac disease, is not a disability.	
rhythmia, or; for indefinite period from date of hospital admission for ventricular aneurysmectomy, or; with an automatic implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator		7016 Heart valve replacement (prosthesis): For indefinite period following date of hospital admission for valve replacement Thereafter:	100
(AICD) in place Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work- load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or;	100	Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work- load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection	
left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100	fraction of less than 30 percent More than one episode of acute congestive	100
More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left venance.		heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ven- tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac-	
tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac- tion of 30 to 50 percent	60	tion of 30 to 50 percent	60
evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilata- tion on electrocardiogram, echocardio- gram, or X-ray	30	tion on electrocardiogram, echocardio- gram, or X-ray	30
greater than 10 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or;	10	fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; continuous medication required	10
continuous medication required	10	NOTE: A rating of 100 percent shall be assigned as of the date of hospital admission for valve replacement. Six months following discharge, the appropriate disability rating shall be determined by mandatory VA examination. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of §3.105(e) of this chapter.	
in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of §3.105(e) of this chapter.		7017 Coronary bypass surgery: For three months following hospital admission for surgery	100
7015 Atrioventricular block: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work-load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or;		Thereafter: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; work- load of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or;	
left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100	left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100

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DISEASES OF THE HEART—Continued

	Rat- ing		Rat- ing
More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of 30 to 50 percent	60	Workload of greater than 5 METs but not greater than 7 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation on electrocardiogram, echocardiogram, or X-ray	30
greater than 7 METs but not greater than 7 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation on electrocardiogram, echocardio-		greater than 10 METS results in dyspried, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; continuous medication required	10
gram, or X-ray Workload greater than 7 METs but not greater than 10 METs results in dyspnea,	30	and isolated systolic hypertension): Diastolic pressure predominantly 130 or more	60
fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; continuous medication required	10	Diastolic pressure predominantly 120 or more	40
For two months following hospital admission for implantation or reimplantation	100	more, or; systolic pressure predominantly 200 or more	20
(DC 7010), ventricular arrhythmias (DC 7011), or atrioventricular block (DC 7015). Minimum	10	more, or; systolic pressure predominantly 160 or more, or; minimum evaluation for an individual with a history of diastolic pressure predominantly 100 or more who	
NOTE: Evaluate implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators (AICD's) under DC 7011.		requires continuous medication for control NOTE (1): Hypertension or isolated systolic hyper- tension must be confirmed by readings taken two	10
7019 Cardiac transplantation: For an indefinite period from date of hospital admission for cardiac transplantation Thereafter: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; workload of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea,	100	or more times on at least three different days. For purposes of this section, the term hypertension means that the diastolic blood pressure is predominantly 90mm. or greater, and isolated systolic hypertension means that the systolic blood pressure is predominantly 160mm. or greater with a diastolic	
fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100	blood pressure of less than 90mm. Note (2): Evaluate hypertension due to aortic insufficiency or hyperthyroidism, which is usually the isolated systolic type, as part of the condition causing it rather than by a separate evaluation. Note (3): Evaluate hypertension separately from hy-	
angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ven- tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac- tion of 30 to 50 percent	60	pertensive heart disease and other types of heart disease. 7110 Aortic aneurysm:	
Minimum	30	If five centimeters or larger in diameter, or; if symptomatic, or; for indefinite period from date of hospital admission for surgical correction (including any type of graft insertion)	100 60
of this chapter. 7020 Cardiomyopathy: Chronic congestive heart failure, or; workload of 3 METs or less results in dyspnea, fatigue, anglina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ventricular dysfunction with an ejection fraction of less than 30 percent	100	NoTE: A rating of 100 percent shall be assigned as of the date of admission for surgical correction. Six months following discharge, the appropriate disability rating shall be determined by mandatory VA examination. Any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination shall be subject to the provisions of §3.105(e) of this chapter.	
More than one episode of acute congestive heart failure in the past year, or; workload of greater than 3 METs but not greater than 5 METs results in dyspnea, fatigue, angina, dizziness, or syncope, or; left ven- tricular dysfunction with an ejection frac-		7111 Aneurysm, any large artery: If symptomatic, or; for indefinite period from date of hospital admission for surgical correction	100
tion of 30 to 50 percent	60	ischemic ulcers or ankle/brachial index of 0.4 or less	100

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DISEASES OF THE HEART—Continued

Claudication on walking less than 25 yards on a level grade at 2 miles per hour, and; persistent coldness of the extremity, one or more deep ischemic ulcers, or ankle/ brachial index of 0.5 or less	
on a level grade at 2 miles per hour, and; persistent coldness of the extremity, one or more deep ischemic ulcers, or ankle/brachial index of 0.5 or less	
or more deep ischemic ulcers, or ankle/brachial index of 0.5 or less	
brachial index of 0.5 or less	,
Claudication on walking between 25 and 100 yards on a level grade at 2 miles per hour, and; trophic changes (thin skin, absence of hair, dystrophic nails) or ankle/brachial index of 0.7 or less	
hour, and; trophic changes (thin skin, absence of hair, dystrophic nails) or ankle/brachial index of 0.7 or less	
sence of hair, dystrophic nails) or ankle/brachial index of 0.7 or less	r
brachial index of 0.7 or less	
Claudication on walking more than 100 yards, and; diminished peripheral pulses or ankle/brachial index of 0.9 or less	-
yards, and; diminished peripheral pulses or ankle/brachial index of 0.9 or less	
or ankle/brachial index of 0.9 or less	
systolic blood pressure at the ankle (determined by Doppler study) divided by the simultaneous brachial artery systolic blood pressure. The normal index is 1.0 or greater. IOTE (2): These evaluations are for involvement of a single extremity. If more than one extremity is af-	
Doppler study) divided by the simultaneous brachial artery systolic blood pressure. The normal index is 1.0 or greater. IOTE (2): These evaluations are for involvement of a single extremity. If more than one extremity is af-	
ial artery systolic blood pressure. The normal index is 1.0 or greater. In the systolic blood pressure. The normal index is 1.0 or greater. In the systolic blood pressure. The normal index is 1.0 or greater. Claudication on walking between 25 and 100 yards on a level grade at 2 miles per single extremity. If more than one extremity is af-	
is 1.0 or greater. Claudication on walking between 25 an 100 yards on a level grade at 2 miles per single extremity. If more than one extremity is af-	
IOTE (2): These evaluations are for involvement of a single extremity. If more than one extremity is af-	
single extremity. If more than one extremity is af-	
fected, evaluate each extremity separately and sence of hair, dystrophic nails) or ankle	
combine (under § 4.25), using the bilateral factor, if brachial index of 0.7 or less	. 40
applicable. Claudication on walking more than 10	
NOTE (3): A rating of 100 percent shall be assigned yards, and; diminished peripheral pulse	
as of the date of hospital admission for surgical correction. Six months following discharge, the ap-	
propriate disability rating shall be determined by systolic blood pressure at the ankle (determined by mandatory VA examination. Any change in evalua- Doppler study) divided by the simultaneous brack	
tion based upon that or any subsequent examina- ial artery systolic blood pressure. The normal inde	
tion shall be subject to the provisions of §3.105(e) is 1.0 or greater.	
of this chapter. Note (2): These evaluations are for involvement of	
112 Aneurysm, any small artery: single extremity. If more than one extremity is a	
Asymptomatic	
IOTE. II Symptomatic, evaluate according to body (84.26) if applicable	'
system anected. Following surgery, evaluate re-	
With two or more digital ulcers plu	;
Arteriovenous fistula, traumatic:	
Without heart failure but with enlarged heart nistory of characteristic attacks	
wide pulse proceure, and tachycardia 60 Will two of fillore digital dicers and filston	
Without cardiac involvement but with Without cardiac involvement but with Characteristic attacks occurring at least	
edema, stasis dermatitis, and either ulcer-	
ation or cellulitis: Characteristic attacks occurring four to si	
Lower extremity	. 20
Upper extremity	
Level extensity	
Upper extremity	
114 Arteriosclerosis obliterans: digits of one or more extremities lasting minutes t	
Ischemic limb pain at rest, and; either deep hours, sometimes with pain and paresthesias, an	
ischemic ulcers or ankle/brachial index of precipitated by exposure to cold or by emotions	
0.4 or less	
Claudication on walking less than 25 yards whole, regardless of the number of extremities in on a level grade at 2 miles per hour, and; volved or whether the nose and ears are involved.	1
either persistent coldness of the extremity	
or ankle/brachial index of 0.5 or less 60 Attacks without larvageal involvement las	. [
Claudication on walking between 25 and indigenent of seven days or longer and or	
100 yards on a level grade at 2 miles per curring more than eight times a year, o	
nour, and; trophic changes (thin skin, ab-	<i>'</i>
sence of hair, dystrophic nails) or ankle/ brachial index of 0.7 or less	
Claudication on walking more than 100 Attacks without laryngeal involvement las ing one to seven days and occurring five	
yards, and; diminished peripheral pulses to eight times a year or attacks with lie	
or ankle/brachial index of 0.9 or less 20 ryngeal involvement of any duration of	
OTE (1): The ankle/brachial index is the ratio of the curring once or twice a year	. 20
systolic blood pressure at the ankle (determined by Attacks without laryngeal involvement las	-
Doppler study) divided by the simultaneous braching one to seven days and occurring tw	
ial artery systolic blood pressure. The normal index is 1.0 or greater. to four times a year	. 10
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DISEASES OF THE HEART—Continued

DISEASES OF THE HEART—Continued

	Rat- ing		Rat- ing
Characteristic attacks that occur more than once a day, last an average of more than two hours each, respond poorly to treatment, and that restrict most routine daily activities		Asymptomatic palpable or visible varicose veins	0 30 20
tion, stasis pigmentation or eczema, and persistent ulceration	60 40 20 10 0	or cold sensitivity	100
Massive board-like edema with constant pain at rest	100 60 40 20	(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1155) [62 FR 65219, Dec. 11, 1997, as amended FR 37779, July 14, 1998; 71 FR52460, Se 2006] THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM § 4.110 Ulcers. Experience has shown that the "peptic ulcer" is not sufficiently cific for rating purposes. Manifest ferences in ulcers of the stomach o odenum in comparison with those a	term spe- t dif- r du-